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Territorial University (Washington) Regents' reports

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Report of the Board of Regents of the Territorial University ... <1864>, <1887>

Report of the Territorial University Regents to the Legislative Assembly, <1871>

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REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF REGENTS

OF THE

TERRITORIAL UNIVERSITY

TO THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

COUNCIL—One hundred copies ordered printed.
HOUSE—One hundred copies ordered printed.

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T. F. McELROY, PRINTER.
1864.

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1867

REGENTS' REPORT.

OFFICE PRESIDENT BORAD OF REGENTS,
WASHINGTON TERRITORY UNIVERSITY,
Olympia, W. T., Dec. 19th, 1864.

To the Legislative Assembly of Washington Territory:

In accordance with the act of the Legislature, passed January 24th, 1862, directing the President of the University Regents to make an annual report, I beg leave to submit the following statement:

The total amount of land donated to the Territory for University purposes was 46,080 acres, according to the report of Daniel Bagley, Esq., President of Board of University Commissioners. Of this amount there has been sold 43,928 acres, which at $1 50 per acre brought $65,892. The cost of building and other incidental expenses appears to have reduced the amount to $24,015. The investment of this sum, upon bond and mortgage, at not less than 12 per centum per annum, creates a revenue upon which the annual or current expenses are based. During the two years last past there has been a gradual transmutation of this fund to the legal tender currency, but during the same time the expenses of the University have been paid in coin or its equivalent, the effect of this, for a year past, has been practically to reduce the principal one-half.

In June last, a meeting of the Board of Regents was held at Seattle, and in view of the state of the fund, the Board of Regents discharged all assistant teachers, and continued the University under the sole direction of the President, Mr. W. E. Barnard, A. M. At that time the pupils numbered about 42.

The improvement of the scholars under the instruction of Mr. Barnard and his accomplished assistants, was observed with pleasure by the members of the Board at their visits to the University in March and June, 1864.

The Board of Regents was unable to ascertain the condition of the fund till last October. From oral information on the subject, at the meeting in March, '64, authority was given to pay teachers and incur other expenses; but upon receiving in October a statement from Rev. D. Bagley, President of the Board of Commissioners, of the condition of the fund, it was ascertained that the revenue would not allow the payment of the salary of the University President for the last few months. so it was deferred, with the understanding that the facts should be reported to the Legislature, with the hope that your Hon. Body would devise a means by which the Regents could comply with the contract with Mr. President Barnard, relating to his salary, as also other necessary expenses, as the Board of Regents could not pay him from the principal of the fund; and there was such an amount of interest money overdue from the borrowers of the fund, and also some of the sums lent were unavailable, particularly in the case of Mr. Thos. Chambers, who is reported by the former Treasurer of the fund as a debtor to a large amount; but Mr. Chambers claims damages for alleged failure on the part of the President and acting Treasurer of the Board of Regents to comply with the terms of the contract by which Mr. Chambers was to receive the sum of money borrowed by him from the University fund.

The undersigned would respectfully request that the matter of difference between the Treasurer of the fund and Mr. Chambers be now considered and determined; and that such legislation be had as will place the management of the Univerity, its lands and all its interests under one board, as that course

will obviate confusion, and establish responsibility, as well as to economy by dispensing with the expense of one Board entirely.

Some additional legislation is needed, especially with regard to authority to institute suits at law against delinquent debtors, and to defray the current expenses of the institution till funds can be collected to constitute means in the Treasurer's hands for the purpose of keeping up the instruction at the school.

In the hope that another year may see the University upon a firm basis and self-supporting, with means to place the pupils who may be sufficiently advanced into the higher classes, and so be able to receive a full collegiate course,

I am, gentlemen,
Very respectfully,
Your ob't servant,
JAMES TILTON,
President Board of Regents,
W. T. University.